

CLAIMS

1. A nonwoven composite comprising a first fibrous layer in the form of a nonwoven web to which a second fibrous layer is joined by fibre entanglement and further comprising at least one textile-treating agent selected from silicones, derivatives of silicones and quaternary ammonium compounds, wherein the active-ingredient level in the treating agent amounts to at least 3% by weight of the solids in the untreated composite.
2. A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 wherein the nonwoven web comprises polyester, polyolefin or polyamide fibres or a mixture of two or more such fibres.
3. A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the nonwoven web is formed by carding and subsequent needling or by hydroentanglement.
4. A nonwoven composite according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbonded material.
5. A nonwoven composite according to any of claims 1 to 4 wherein the basis weight of the nonwoven web is from  $20 \text{ gm}^{-2}$  to  $150 \text{ gm}^{-2}$ .
6. A nonwoven composite according to any of claims 1 to 5 wherein the second fibrous layer is formed from a pulp of cellulosic fibres.
7. A nonwoven composite according to claim 6 wherein the cellulosic fibres are wood fibres, vegetable fibres or a mixture thereof.
8. A nonwoven composite according to claim 7 which comprises, as vegetable fibres, abaca, jute, sisal or a mixture thereof.
9. A nonwoven composite according to any of claims 1 to 8 wherein the second fibrous layer is formed by an airlaying or wetlaying process.

10. A nonwoven composite according to any of claims 1 to 9 wherein the basis weight of the second fibrous layer is from 20 gm<sup>-2</sup> to 70 gm<sup>-2</sup>.
- 5 11. A nonwoven composite according to any of claims 1 to 10 wherein the textile-treating agent is a siloxane polymer, a siloxane copolymer, an organofunctional siloxane or a mixture of two or more of these.
- 10 12. A nonwoven composite according to any of claims 1 to 11 which comprises 3 to 7% by weight of silicone treating agent, as silicone, relative to the total dry weight of fibres.
13. A nonwoven composite according to claim 12 which comprises 3.5 to 6.5%, by weight of silicone treating agent, as silicone, relative to the total dry weight of fibres.
- 15 14. A nonwoven composite according to claim 13 which comprises 4 to 5.5%, by weight of silicone treating agent, as silicone, relative to the total dry weight of fibres.
- 20 15. A process for the production of a nonwoven composite in which a second fibrous layer is hydroentangled into a first fibrous layer that is in the form of a nonwoven web, and the resultant structure is treated with at least one textile-treating agent selected from silicones, derivatives of silicones and quaternary ammonium compounds, wherein the active-ingredient level in the treating agent amounts to at least 3% by weight of the solids in the untreated composite.
- 25 16. A process according to claim 15 for the production of a nonwoven composite according to any of claims 2 to 14.
- 30 17. An article comprising a moulded body, a decorative facing material and, disposed between them, a nonwoven composite according to any of claims 1 to 14 or a nonwoven composite produced by a process according to claim 15 or 16.

18. A moulded article, according to claim 17, wherein a foam layer is disposed between the decorative facing material and the nonwoven composite.

19. A method of manufacturing an article in which a decorative facing material is placed within a mould space, a nonwoven material is located adjacent said material on the side remote from the show surface of the facing material and thermoplastic resin is introduced into the space defined by the mould wall and the surface of the nonwoven material remote from the decorative facing material, wherein the nonwoven material is a composite according to any of claims 1 to 14 or a composite produced by a process according to claim 15 or 16.